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State Health Advisory Supplement COVID-19 Vaccines

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Supplemental Advisory #12.4 Wyoming Department of Health February 1, 2021

SUMMARY

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) is currently receiving limited supply of two COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Vaccine administration at this time is being conducted by a limited number of providers, including public health departments and nursing offices, hospitals and pharmacies. While limited supplies exist, vaccine is being administered to certain priority groups as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This document summarizes the WDH vaccine priority groups, the authorized vaccines, and recommendations for their use.

In addition, WDH has rapid antigen tests available for distribution and this document describes how providers can request and use those tests.

COVID-19 VACCINES

Vaccine Prioritization

Wyoming is currently in phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccine campaign. In phase 1, vaccines are in limited supply and are being allocated for administration to certain populations. Within phase 1, WDH has developed multiple tiers with specific population groups according to guidance from the ACIP and from the WDH Medical Ethics Committee, with the overall goals of preventing morbidity and mortality due to COVID-19 and preserving the essential functions of society. In general, phase 1a critical populations are healthcare providers and other persons with regular exposure to COVID-19 patients; healthcare providers or other persons who have regular exposure to people who are potentially positive for COVID-19, or those who are exposed to infectious materials; and residents and staff of long-term care facilities, assisted living facilities and residential care facilities for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Phase 1b includes individuals 65 years of age and older and individuals aged 16-64 with certain medical conditions putting them at higher risk for severe illness. More details about the qualifying medical conditions can be found on CDC's website:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditi

ons.html. Phase 1b also includes frontline essential workers who must interact with the public and are unable to consistently physically distance from others. Phase 1c includes individuals who are at increased risk of acquiring or transmitting COVID-19, such as those living in congregate settings, and other essential workers.

Current details on groups in phase 1a, 1b, and 1c are posted on the WDH website. Most Wyoming counties are currently finishing 1a and have begun vaccinating in phase 1b. In phase 1b, WDH recommends planning to vaccinate frontline workers and individuals at increased risk of severe COVID-19 illness in parallel, to increase flexibility and ensure timely vaccine administration. **Due to current limitations in vaccine supply, not all individuals in group 1b will have immediate access to the vaccine.** Please note that the list of priority groups is subject to change as WDH continuously evaluates the vaccine rollout: https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/.

The ACIP guidance for phase 1a can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6949e1.htm. The ACIP guidance for phases 1b and 1c can be found here: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm695152e2.htm.

Because of the limited supply of vaccine, at this time vaccine administration is being completed by county health departments, public health nursing offices, hospitals, and a limited number of other providers. WDH is also participating in a federal partnership with Walgreens and CVS to immunize residents and staff in Wyoming enrolled long-term care facilities. Direct federal supplies are also being provided for vaccinations through the Veterans Administration, for tribal health entities and for military installations.

As vaccine supplies grow and counties move into later tiers of phase 1, more healthcare providers and pharmacies will be asked to assist with vaccination. Providers must be enrolled with the Wyoming COVID-19 Vaccine Program in order to participate. Information on how to enroll can be found here:

https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/covid vaccineproviders/.

The timing of when each county will be in each tier is expected to vary based on multiple factors, including the number of vaccines received by the county, the number of people in each priority group, and the vaccine acceptance rate. In addition, to ensure that vaccines are being administered as rapidly as possible, there will likely be overlap in the timing of vaccination in phases 1a and 1b. Though there will be variability between counties in the timing of vaccination of certain groups, it is critical that individuals seek vaccination in the county in which they live or work, and not seek vaccine in other counties, to ensure fair and equitable distribution of vaccine across the state.

How to Access Vaccine

For healthcare providers and patients, the best source of information on when it is their turn to be vaccinated and how to access the vaccine will be from the county health department or public

health nursing office. County health departments and public health nursing offices will be providing information and notifications through a variety of outlets, including the media, their websites, social media, and through employers. The Wyoming Immunization Unit provides statewide information as well as links to county-specific information on their website: https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/

Pre-registration is currently available for individuals age 65 and over. Registration processes may vary county to county. County-specific registration information is available online at https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/county-covid-19-vaccine-information/. Those unable to visit the website for details about the priority groups or for county-specific information can call the WDH toll-free vaccine phone line at 800-438-5795.

Pre-registration is not available for those with underlying medical conditions at this time. Additional information for individuals with underlying medical conditions will be published when vaccine is available for those groups. Pre-registration is not necessary for essential workers, as they will be contacted through their employers.

FDA-Authorized Vaccines

The FDA has issued emergency use authorizations for two COVID-19 vaccines, the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Both vaccines are mRNA vaccines and are administered in a two-dose series. Further information about the vaccines can be found in the table below:

Vaccine	FDA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers	Dose Schedule	Authorized Ages for Administration
Pfizer-BioNTech	https://www.fda.gov/media/144 413/download	2 doses 21 days apart	≥ 16 years
Moderna	https://www.fda.gov/media/144 637/download	2 doses 28 days apart	≥ 18 years

Detailed information about storage and administration of the vaccines can be found on the FDA Fact Sheets for Healthcare Providers (links found in table above) and on CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine website (https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html).

Recommendations and Clinical Considerations for Use

Detailed clinical considerations, including contraindications and precautions, for use of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines from the ACIP and CDC can be found at this link: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html.

Because rare instances of severe allergic reactions have been reported after COVID-19 vaccination, vaccine providers must have appropriate medical treatment used to manage

immediate allergic reactions immediately available in the event an acute anaphylactic reaction occurs following administration of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

ABBOTT BINAX NOW ANTIGEN TESTS AVAILABLE

WDH has supplies of Abbott BinaxNOW antigen tests available for provider use. The Abbott BinaxNOW test is a rapid antigen test for COVID-19 approved for use under an Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA for testing of individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 during their first 5-7 days of illness. The Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet for these tests can be found here: https://www.fda.gov/media/141568/download

Recommendations for Use

WDH recommends that these tests be used for symptomatic patients suspected of having COVID-19. WDH also recommends sending a sample for confirmatory PCR testing for symptomatic individuals who test negative on the BinaxNOW test. Those confirmatory PCR tests can be sent to the WPHL. The BinaxNOW may have some utility for testing asymptomatic individuals, particularly in settings where individuals are tested frequently or in outbreak situations. However, this test has low sensitivity among asymptomatic individuals, resulting in potentially false negative results. Positive results among asymptomatic individuals should also be interpreted with caution, and a confirmatory PCR is recommended.

WDH asks that outpatient and public health providers prioritize the following groups when using these tests:

- Symptomatic K-12 students and staff
- Symptomatic residents or staff of nursing homes and assisted living facilities that do not otherwise have access to rapid testing
- Symptomatic residents or staff in other communal settings that do not otherwise have access to rapid testing (jails, group homes, community colleges, child care facilities)
- Symptomatic critical infrastructure workers

Outpatient and public health providers can test other populations as supplies allow.

Hospitals can use these tests in any way that best supports their patient care and operations.

Laboratory and Training Requirements

As CLIA-waived tests, these tests must be performed in accordance with your CLIA certificate of waiver. Please contact the CLIA office at the WDH if you have questions about what is allowed under your CLIA certificate of waiver

(https://health.wyo.gov/aging/hls/clia-clinical-laboratory-improvement-amendments/).

Test site training will be provided by Abbott through online tools and reinforced with optional, recurring webinars. Training videos, modules, guidance documents, and FAQs for the BinaxNOW test can be accessed here on Abbott's website:

https://www.globalpointofcare.abbott/en/support/product-installation-training/navica-brand/navica-binaxnow-ag-training.html.

For questions regarding the BinaxNOW test, please call Abbott Technical Services at 1-800-257-9525 or email ts.scr@abbott.com.

Reporting

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act requires that all diagnostic COVID-19 tests, including both positive and negative results, be reported to the appropriate public health authority. All BinaxNOW results must be reported to the WDH. Hospitals with Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) capability should report test results directly to WDH using ELR.

Hospitals and providers without ELR capability should report results using the REDCap Survey at this link: https://redcap.link/COVIDTestReporting. Providers should collect information on the Excel template provided at the survey link. Please use only this template and do not make alterations to the template. Providers should use the REDCap Survey to upload collected data. Data should be uploaded daily.

Testing and Provider Costs

The tests have been provided free of charge from the Federal Government and Wyoming Department of Health. Providers cannot charge patients for the tests themselves. WDH recognizes that providers may need to charge patients for staff time to administer the tests.

Requesting Tests

Providers may request tests by using this survey: https://redcap.link/BINAXNow. Please note that these tests are available only for providers in Wyoming.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, providers should visit the WDH Immunization Unit website at

https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/immunization/wyoming-covid-19-vaccine-information/ or email WDH.immunization@wyo.gov.